



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Hotline Complaint Form

Your Hotline Complaint Form E002152 has been submitted and received by The OIG. Thank You.

Anyone with knowledge of fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement involving the U.S. Department of the Interior should call or write the Office of Inspector General's Hotline (please choose the method of contact which best suits you):

- Telephone - OIG Hotline's Toll Free Number: 1-800-424-5081
- Fax - Complete and submit the Complaint Form to:
703-487-5402 (Attention: Hotline Operations)
- US Mail - Complete and submit the Complaint Form to:
Office of Inspector General
Department of the Interior
381 Elden Street, Suite 3000
Attention: Intake Management Unit
Herndon, VA 20170
- E-mail - Complete and submit the Complaint Form by pressing the submit button below:

You may also report fraudulent activities to the nearest regional OIG offices at the following locations:

- Eastern Regional Office, Herndon, Virginia (703) 487-8051
- Central Regional Office, Lakewood, Colorado (303) 236-8296
- Western Regional Office, Sacramento, California (916) 978-5630

Alleged Misconduct

Who committed the alleged misconduct/wrongdoing? (What is the title/position held by the alleged wrongdoer? Please include names, addresses and telephone numbers of victims and witnesses. If providing information concerning contractor or grantee fraud, please provide the name of the primary contractor or sub, type of contract, contract or grant numbers, the date of the award and name of agency official.)

What exactly did the individual(s) do that was wrong? (Please provide specific and relevant details concerning the alleged misconduct/wrongdoing.)

The Natural Resource Specialists (NRS) in the Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) process the applications for permit to drill (APDs) for oil/gas companies. They are also in charge with producing the NEPA documents associated with APDs. The Supervisor of the NRSs in the CFO is [REDACTED]. He is from the Carlsbad area and his family owns and still operates a ranch in the field office and owns permits for grazing allotments. [REDACTED] Concho Oil and Gas (COG) (I believe works as a "land man" siting oil/gas well pads). I have been informed that in 2017 [REDACTED] prioritized the processing of the APDs in a way that was advantageous (faster processing times) to COG over other oil and gas companies through his connection [REDACTED]. I believe that this prioritization was done with the help of [REDACTED] who is a Petroleum Engineer Technician in the CFO. In addition, I was told that [REDACTED] intentionally delayed the processing of APDs for wells being proposed by Matador (oil and gas company) and sited near his family's ranch lands. Prioritization of COG's APD processing is problematic because it is not fair to other companies waiting for their APDs to be processed. APD processing priority is normally based on companies' rig schedules; albeit, I have since learned that oil and gas companies buy and trade approved APDs which leads to another question: is prioritization of APD processing based on desire to "trade" processed APDs like a stock or based on need to drill because of an expensive rig schedule. If the former is the case, is the BLM complicit in accommodating this buy and sell APD secondary market scheme by expediting APDs destined for this secondary buy/trade market instead of serving the immediate intended purpose of allowing an applicant to drill? (This digression admittedly strays from the primary complaint pertaining to [REDACTED] but could be an ancillary point to follow up on.) When [REDACTED] first became Supervisor of the NRSs, it was my understanding that he signed a statement saying that he would not let his family's ranching interests interfere with his duties as the Supervisor. [REDACTED] processes more APDs than any one individual NRS which begs the questions: Why is a supervisor processing APDs instead of training and mentoring his staff do this? Also, for which oil and gas companies did [REDACTED] focus his attention in 2017 in processing APDs? Using his relationship with [REDACTED] who works at COG, is he prioritizing the processing of COG APDs over those of other companies? Is he allowing his family's ranching interests to interfere with his job duties? Finally, it is my understanding that all supervisors are on probation the first year in the position. [REDACTED] became supervisor in January 2016.

When did the misconduct/wrongdoing occur? (Please provide dates and times, if possible.)

Throughout 2017 until present.

Where did the misconduct/wrongdoing occur? (Please provide the bureau or office, city and state.)

You can see the history of APDs being processed in the database IT4RM, which is a database created to facilitate APD processing for the state of New Mexico. [REDACTED] has the most knowledge of the database and is in charge of administering it. [REDACTED] works in the BLM NM state office. He can guide you through IT4RM. [REDACTED]

How was the misconduct/wrongdoing committed? (i.e. falsifying documents, etc.)

Colluding with [REDACTED] to prioritize COG APDs over those of other companies. Slowing the processing of APDs sited near the [REDACTED].
you have first hand knowledge of the misconduct/wrongdoing?

No. However, I do know that [REDACTED] a petroleum engineer technician, coordinates with oil companies and [REDACTED] on APD processing prioritization. At times [REDACTED] oversteps his bounds and it is my understanding that this is a job duty that falls outside of the duties of a petroleum engineering technician but management allows (and likely encourages) him to coordinate between oil companies and [REDACTED]

Where can we obtain additional information concerning this misconduct/wrongdoing? (i.e. documents, etc.)

You can see the history of APDs being processed in the database IT4RM, which is a database created to facilitate APD processing for the state of New Mexico. [REDACTED] has the most knowledge of the database and is in charge of administering it. [REDACTED] in the BLM NM state office. He can guide you through IT4RM. [REDACTED]

Who else might be aware of this misconduct/wrongdoing? (Please provide names, addresses and telephone numbers) How would this individual know about this?

[REDACTED]

Complainant

Are you willing to be interviewed concerning this matter? If so please provide your name, address and telephone number, and the best time to contact you. You can provide contact information for us to follow-up with additional questions and still remain confidential.

Your E-Mail address (optional)

If you wish to remain confidential, please select: (For a description of Confidentiality, please refer to the [\\"Your Rights\\"](#) page.)
Confidential:

Yes

Print